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2.11.03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Filed by Express

(Receipt No. 611566118945)

on Jan 29-03

pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10.

by [Signature]
Patricia H. H. H.

Serial No. : 09/577,467

Filed : May 24, 2000

Title : **MULTI-LEVEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR
MONITORING COMMUNICATION APPARATUSES**

RECEIVED

Examiner : Scott A. Wallace

FEB 03 2003

Group Art Unit : 2672

Technology Center 2600

January 29, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a one-month extension, a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

An Office Action was mailed on October 3, 2002. Claims 1 – 13 are pending in the present application.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,941,996 to Smith et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As disclosed in independent claims 1, 8 and 11, Applicants disclose a monitoring system for monitoring information indicative of the status of objects, comprising a local monitoring apparatus and a central monitoring apparatus. The local monitoring apparatus

includes a memory for storing first and second information sets, a processing unit that makes the first set reflect an operation performed on the local monitoring apparatus and the second set reflect an operation performed on the central monitoring apparatus, an output for outputting the first information set to a local monitor, and a transmission unit for transmitting the second set to a second monitor of the central monitoring apparatus.

The central monitoring apparatus is configured to make the second set of information reflect an operation performed on the central monitoring apparatus through communication with the local monitoring apparatus, and to display the second information set on a central monitor. In addition, the central monitoring apparatus is configured to prepare summary information for display on the second monitor that reflects operations performed by the central monitoring apparatus.

Smith discloses a system for monitoring the performance of remote systems, including centralized server 10 and workstations 40 (see, e.g., FIG. 1 of Smith). Each workstation 40 has a system event log 60 for storing information about workstation events. A message retrieval utility of the centralized server 10 is capable to independently retrieve event log information from the workstations 40. Once retrieved, the event log information is filtered and prioritized for presentation to system administrators.

Unlike the system of Smith, Applicants' claimed invention describes a monitoring apparatus that enables control operations relating to the objects to be performed independently by the central monitoring apparatus and the associated local monitoring apparatus as a result of maintaining two independent information lists in the associated local monitoring apparatus (see, e.g., page 13, line 27 through page 14, line 28 of Applicants' specification). For example, each of the central monitoring apparatus and the associated local monitoring apparatus may independently confirm status changes from

respective second and first information sets (see, e.g., page 18, lines 26 – 33 of Applicants' specification and list screens 11A-3, 11B-3 of FIG. 3). Nowhere does Smith disclose or otherwise suggest providing two sets of monitoring information in the local monitoring apparatus for this claimed purpose.

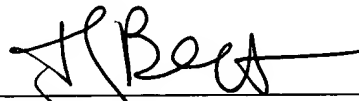
As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8 and 11 are not anticipated by Smith, and are therefore allowable. As claims 2 – 7, 8 – 91, and 12 – 13 respectively depend from allowable claims 1, 8 and 11, Applicants submit that claims 2 – 7, 8 – 91, and 12 – 13 are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 13, including independent claims 1, 8 and 11 and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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DOCKET No.: FUJI 17.354 (100794-11422)